

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EA-11 AF-10 EUR-25 EB-11 NEA-14 SR-02

ORM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 076169

R 191724Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6894

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, TD

SUBJECT: GOTT ATTITUDES ON UNGA ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 184584; B. POS 2218; C. STATE 196841

1. DCM MET WITH EXTAFF PERMANENT SECRETARY FRANK ABDULAH SEPT 17 FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES BEFORE THE UNGA AND TO PRESENT THE US POSITIONS CONTAINED IN REFTELS A AND C. DURING THE CONVERSATION DCM REITERATED US CONCERN ON THE KHMER REPRESENTATION QUESTION, PREVIOUSLY CONVEYED TO MINISTER JOSEPH BY AMBASSADOR MILLER (REF B), AND EXPLAINED THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE KOREAN QUESTION AND THE RATIONALE FOR THE US POSITION. ABDULAH DID NOT COMMENT SUBSTANTIVELY ON EITHER QUESTION BUT SPOKE FREELY ABOUT OTHER ISSUES, PRINCIPALLY CONCERNING AFRICA, WHICH ARE OF GREATER INTEREST TO THE GOTT.

2. ON THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, ABDULAH SAID THAT THE GOTT APPROVED OF THE ACTIONS THAT PORTUGAL HAD TAKEN SO FAR BUT NOTED THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, ANGOLA, REMAINED TO BE SOLVED. ABDULAH PREDICTED THAT THE UN WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIALIZATION DID NOT STOP NOW. RELATING THE PORTUGUESE COLONIAL DEVELOPMENTS
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TO ANOTHER AFRICAN QUESTION BEFORE THE UN, HE SAID THAT BECAUSE

THE IMMINENT INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE COULD CUT OFF RHODESIA'S ACCESS TO THE PORT OF BEIRA AND THUS MAKE THE SMITH REGIME'S ECONOMIC POSITION UNTENABLE, HE BELIEVED THAT THE UN WOULD GO ALL OUT THIS YEAR TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS PRESSING THE UK TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT RHODESIA. HOW THE UK WOULD RESPOND WOULD, HE FELT, DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THE BRITISH ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER.

3. ON NAMIBIA, ABDULAH SAID THAT THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE UN SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIONS IN NAMIBIA. THE UN COMMISSION ON NAMIBIA WAS DOING A GOOD JOB, HE SAID, AND THE GOTT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO EXTENDING THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN'S TERM OF OFFICE FOR ONE YEAR. THE MOST PRESSING QUESTION ON NAMIBIA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOWEVER, WOULD BE THE RIGHT TO EXPLOIT THE TERRITORY'S NATURAL RESOURCES. ABDULAH NOTED THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES STILL OPERATE IN NAMIBIA AND ISSUE COULD COME TO A HEAD WHEN A SHIPMENT OF ORE FROM NAMIBIA WAS ATTACHED IN SOME PORT BY THE UN COMMISSION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS BEING EXPORTED ILLEGALLY. HE SAID GOTT DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE THIS ISSUE DROPPED IN ITS COURTS SINCE THERE IS NO DIRECT SHIPPING FROM NAMIBIA TO TRINIDAD.

4. ON OTHER ISSUES, ABDULAH AGREED THAT THE UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE SHOULD ACT AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR RELIEF EFFORTS RATHER THAN AS AN OPERATING AGENCY AND SAID THAT THE GOTT WOULD SUPPORT THIS POSITION. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, ABDULAH SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT POLEMICAL STATEMENTS IN THE UN DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION, HE DID NOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT A MODERATION OF THE RHETORIC IN THE PRESENT SESSION. THE GOTT HAD JUST INCREASED ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNRWA AND WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT BUT HOPED INCREASED SUPPORT FORTHCOMING FROM ARAB OIL WEALTH. CONCERNING THE UN BUDGET, ABDULAH AGREED GENERALLY ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF HOLDING DOWN THE BUDGET AND INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND THEN EXPRESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT DESPITE THE LARGE UN STAFF AND BUDGET, THE HIGHEST-RANKING TRINIDADIAN OFFICER ON THE UN STAFF WAS ONLY A D-4.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO02243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740263-0919
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740931/aaaabakg.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 184584; B. POS 2218; C. STA, TE 196841
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOTT ATTITUDES ON UNGA ISSUES
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, TD, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005